

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PEKING 00045 071908Z
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00
INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-07 OMB-01
SAJ-01 A-01 SY-05 OC-06 CCO-00 OPR-02 /084 W
-----071910Z 106818 /44

O 071600Z JAN 76
FM USLO PEKING
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7034
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE
CIMKPAC FOR POLAD IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 45

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, CH
SUBJECT: TIENANMEN POSTERS CALL FOR RETURN OF TENG

REF: PEKING 35

1. FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF CHOU EN-LAI DEATH:
SITUATION REPORT AT 2300 HOURS JANUARY 7 LOCAL.

2. AT APPROXIMATELY 1730 HOURS A FOUR-PAGE POSTER
"CALLING FOR THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF
CHAIRMAN JUA KUO-FENG" TO MAKE A CLEARCUT DECISION
SOON ON THE RETURN OF TENG HSIAO-PING TO WORK WAS POSTED ON
THE WOODEN FENCE SURROUNDING THE TIENANMEN SQUARE CONSTRUCTION
SITE FOR MAO'S MAUSOLEUM. THE POSTER RECOUNTED THE BACKGROUND
OF TENG'S FIRST RETURN TO WORK, NOTED THAT THE PEOPLE HAD
WELCOME THE DECISION, AND ACKNOWLEDGED THAT TENG HAD COMMITTED
SOME NEW ERRORS UPON STARTING WORK AGAIN IN 1975. BUT, THE POSTER
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WENT ON, NO PERSON IS IMMUNE FROM ERROR AND TENG'S ERRORS WERE
CONTRADICTIONS AMONG THE PEOPLE (UNLIKE THOSE OF THE GANG OF FOUR).
IN LIGHT OF THIS, IT WAS HOPED THAT THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE COULD MAKE
A
CLEARCUT DECISION "A BIT FASTER" AND "LET THE PEOPLE KNOW" A BIT
EARLIER. THIS LINE -- READ IN A TONE MIDWAY BETWEEN IMPATIENCE AND

THREAT -- RECEIVED SPORADIC APPLAUSE FROM THE THREE OR FOUR HUNDRED PEOPLE GATHERED AROUND THE POSTER TO HEAR IT READ ALOUD. LIKE THE POSTER PUT UP YESTERDAY ALONG CHANG AN STREET NEAR THE PEKING HOTEL (WHICH IS ALREADY TATTERED FROM THE CONTINUOUS PRESS OF MILLING THRONGS), THIS OPUS RIDICULED THE EQUATION OF TENG WITH HUNGARY'S IMRE NAGY. (REFTEL)

3. OTHER POSTERS ALSO CALLED FOR A REEVALUATION OF THE TIENANMEN INCIDENT, THOUGH IN LESS INSISTENT TERMS. Milder slogans expressing love and respect for Premier Chou continue to be posted at Tienanmen and along Chang An Street.

4. FLORAL WREATHS -- TOTALLING THREE LARGE ONES AND NUMEROUS SMALLER ONES BY 2300 -- COMMEMORATING PREMIER CHOU BEGAN TO APPEAR IN LATE AFTERNOON IN FRONT OF TIENANMEN. HANDWRITTEN POEMS AND INSCRIPTIONS PINNED TO THEM BROUGHT FORTH READERS AND SCRIBES FROM AMONG THE CROWD. AS ONE GROUP TOOK DOWN THE ENTIRETY OF THE MESSAGE, IT GOOD-NATUREDLY RETREATED IN A BODY TO MAKE WAY FOR THE NEXT CONTINGENT TO STEP FORWARD.

5. TO THE EAST OF THE FIRST POSTER WHICH APPEARED YESTERDAY ALONG CHANG AN STREET THERE WERE SUSPENDED FROM A TREE EFFIGIES OF THE GANG OF FOUR -- CHIANG CHING AND CHANG CHUN-CHIAO DANGLING TOGETHER FROM A LOW BRANCH, WITH YAO WEN-YUAN AND WANG HUNG-WEN PERCHED ABOVE. BENEATH THE EFFIGIES -- PREPARED WITH ARTISTRY SO FORMIDABLE THAT NO ONE COULD MISTAKE THE IDENTITY OF THOSE PORTRAYED --

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CROWDS GATHERED TO CRACK JOKES AND CARRY ON COMIC DIALOGUES WITH MEMBERS OF THE GANG. ONE JOKE HAD CONSIDERABLE BITE: THE MUNORIST OF THE MOMENT, MINICING ONE OF THE GANG, QUOTH "LEAVE TEIENANMEN SQUARE IMMEDIATELY." THE PERSON TO HIS IMMEDIATE LEFT RESPONDED: "OH YES, THAT'S WHAT WU TEH SAID AT THE APRIL TIENANMEN DEMONSTRATIONS."

6. PERHAPS SIGNIFICANTLY, A LENGTHY POSTER NEARBY PREPARED ON SCHOOLBOOK COMPOSITION PAPER TERMED THE STRUGGLE WITH THE GANG OF FOUR "AN ANTAGONISTIC HKONTRADICTION, A LIFE-AND-DEATH STRUGGLE."

7. BY 2200 HOURS CROWDS IN TIENANMEN AND ALONG CHANG AN STREET NUMBERED IN THE THOUSANDS BUT BY 2300 HAD DIMINISHED CONSIDERABLY. PLA AND PUBLIC SECURITY PERSONNEL WERE OMNIPRESENT BUT MADE NO MOVE TO INTERFERE IN THE PROCEEDINGS. CROWD WAS INTENSELY INTERESTED

AND TOOK LITTLE NOTICE OF FOREIGNERS SAVE AN OCCASIONAL SHOUTED
QUERY "CAN YOU UNDERSTAND ALL THAT?"

8. COMMENT: ASSUMING THAT POSTERS CONTINUE TO GO UP AND CROWDS
GROW ON THE 8TH (THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF CHOU'S DEATH), PRESSURE
WILL BUILD ON HUA KUO-FENG TO ANSWER THE DEMAND FOR A DECISION ON
TENG. AS FOR PEKING'S REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WU TEH,
THE PORTENTS LOOK BAD; THE SNEERING REMINDER NOTED ABOVE THAT WU
TEH HAD TRIED TO QUELL THE APRIL DEMONSTRATIONS -- NOW UNIVERSALLY
DESCRIBED AS A MANIFESTATION OF THE PEOPLE'S LOVE AND RESPECT FOR
PREMIER CHOU -- SUGGESTS THAT HIS REMOVAL IS ALREADY A FOREGONE
CONCLUSION ON THE PART OF THE CROWDS.
GATES

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NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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